**Labour courts and industrial tribunals in the country**

412. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is adequate number of labour courts and tribunals functioning in the country;

(b) the number of cases pending in these courts; and

(c) whether there is any proposal to increase the number of labour courts and tribunals and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRASEKHAR RAO): (a) to (c) There were 17 Central Government Industrial Tribunal-cum-Labour Courts (CGIT's) constituted for adjudication of industrial disputes in the Central sphere. During the Tenth Five Year Plan, five new Central Government Insutrial Tribunal-cum-Labour Courts have been set up taking the total number of 22. In the circumstances, it may be difficult to set up more number of CGIT-cum-Labour Courts during the 10th Five Year Plan.

As on 31.12.2004, 14680 cases and 5068 applications were pending in the CGIT-cum-Labour Courts.

**Review of pension reforms**

413. SHRIMATI SUKHBUNS KAUR: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Employees Provident Fund rate hike to 9.5 per cent benefits only 4 per cent of India's working population;

(b) if so, whether Pension Reforms which hold the key for the major work force of the country, is already overdue; and

(c) what steps have been taken to review and reform the Pension Scheme so far?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRASEKHAR RAO): (a) All the members of Employees Provident Fund Scheme will be benefited in the interest rate of Employees Provident Fund. As on 31.03.2004, there were 400.92 lakh members of the Employees' Provident Fund.